

CLAIMS

28-46 (Cancelled)

47. (New) A apparatus for monitoring the operations of an operator of a machine that performs a medical function, comprising:

computer means,

said computer means storing a first series of steps that an operator should perform when using said machine to perform said medical function,

said computer means receiving, and storing a second series of steps that set forth what the operator performed during the use of said machine to perform said medical function,

said computer means comparing said first series of steps with said second series of steps.

48. (Previously presented) Apparatus as defined in claim 47, in which said computer means has an output which sets forth prices computed from the operations performed by said machine.

49. (Previously presented) Apparatus as defined in claim 47, in which said computer provides information on procedures performed by said machine.

50. (New) Apparatus as defined in claim 47, wherein there are a plurality of machines each of which performs a medical function and in which said computer compares an actual series of steps of each said machine with a predetermined series of steps and determines any difference between said predetermined series of steps and said actual series of steps.

51. (New) Apparatus as defined in claim 50, in which said computer means comprises plural computers, including at least one computer for each machine so that separate operators can monitor separate patient at the same time.

52. (New) The method of monitoring the operations of an operator of a medical machine which gathers medical information about a patient, comprising:
providing a computer,
storing in said computer a predetermined series of steps for operating said machine to perform a medical function,
entering into said computer the actual series of steps of said operator in operating said machine,
comparing said predetermined series of steps and said actual series of steps of said operator.

53. (Previously presented) The method as defined in claim 52, in which said computer computes prices useful for billing purposes from the operations of said machine.

54. (New) The method defined in claim 52, in which there are a plurality of machines each of which performs a medical function,
providing a separate operator for each of said machines,
comparing said predetermined series of steps with the actual series of steps of each operator.

55. (New) The method as defined in claim 52, in which said computer provides information on procedures performed on each of said machines as well as summaries of the operations of all of said machines.

56. (New) The method as defined in claim 52, in which there are plural machines and said computer compares an actual operation of each machine with a predetermined series of steps and determines any difference or similarity between said predetermined series of steps and said actual series of steps performed.

57. (Previously presented) The method of claim 52, wherein prices useful for billing purposes are computed based on the operations of said operator.

58. (New) Apparatus as defined in claim 52, in which said machine takes a picture of a part of a body that would be visualized by said series of steps.

59. (New) The method of claim 47, wherein said performance of a medical function comprises taking a picture of a part of a body that would be visualized by said series of steps.

60. (New) The method as defined in claim 52, wherein said computer means comprises a device that starts to store the actual steps of said operator before said medical function is completely performed.

61. (New) The method defined in claim 47, in which said steps of the operator are entered into said computer means before said machine gathers said medical information.

62. (New) The method of monitoring the work of an operator of a medical machine comprising:

providing a medical machine which requires an operator to make a series of steps in order for such machine to produce desired results,

providing computer means,

entering into said memory data which represents a predetermined series of steps of said operator in operating said machine with each such entry occurring prior to the next medical function being performed with said machine undertaken, and

comparing said entries into said computer means with said predetermined series of steps.

63. (New) A apparatus for monitoring the operations of an operator of a

machine that performs a medical function, comprising:

a computer,

said computer storing a predetermined series of steps that an operator should perform when using said machine to perform said medical function, and

means for receiving, and entering into said memory, the actual series of steps of the operator of said machine during the use of the machine to perform said medical function, and

said computer comparing said predetermined series of steps with said actual series of steps that were entered into said machine.

64. (New) A apparatus for monitoring the operations of an operator of a machine that performs a medical function, comprising:

computer means,

said computer means storing at least one predetermined step of a series of steps that an operator should perform when using said machine to perform said medical function,

said computer means receiving and storing at least one of the actual steps of the series of steps of the operator of said machine during the use of the machine to perform said medical function, and

said computer means comparing said at least one predetermined step of a series of steps with said at least one of the actual series of steps that were entered into said machine.